G. R. S. IX-5]

Previous references. 1898.

~~191~~ .

(Sanitary)

File No. 58.

Serial Nos. 1

Later references.

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos.

Part B for Nov. 98.

SUBJECT.

Appointment of a Commission to enquire into certain questions connected with the plague

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Gujarat
Nagar [illegible]

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A. Resolution in Mysore

To

The Secretary to the Govt. of Mysore,
Rev. and Gen. Depts.

Section Sam 5E-98

Dated 29.11.98

Despatched

Received

General No. 6384

No.

Enclosure No.

Forwarding a copy of the Resolution of the Govt of India regarding the appointment of a Commission to enquire into certain questions connected with plague.

Subject: Sec for info: orders
Think of the Com: are coming here
Shall may acknowledge
Yes 1/12/98

We have no MK correspondence on the subject - Please endorse the Commissioner that the Resolution - Q - 12-98.

Yes

No

References to be marked.

5/12/98

Draft
5/12/98

File
6/12/98

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No. 6384 Ex
82 P 98

Rec'd 1/12/98

FROM

THE FIRST ASSISTANT TO THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE.

To

The Dewan of Mysore.

Dated Bangalore, 29th Nov 189 8

SIR,

I am directed to forward for information a copy of a resolution of the Government of India in the Home Department No.4360-74 dated the 11th instant regarding the appointment of a Commission to inquire into certain questions connected with Plague.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

K S Erskine Captain,

First Assistant Resident.

3/

No. 4360-74.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Home Department ($\frac{\text{Sanitary}}{\text{Plague}}$),—*under date Simla, the* 14 *November 1898.*

READ—

(1) Despatch to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 19, dated the 25th August 1898.

(2) Telegrams from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, dated the 28th September and 2nd November 1898.

RESOLUTION.

Plague broke out in the City of Bombay during the rainy season of 1896 and has since visited all parts of the Bombay Presidency, the city of Calcutta, the district of Saharanpur in the North-Western Provinces, the districts of Jullunder and Hoshiarpur in the Punjab, several districts of the Madras Presidency, the Hyderabad and Mysore States, the Sirohi State in the Rajputana Agency, and the Gwalior State in the Central India Agency. No efforts have been spared in devising and prosecuting measures to stay the epidemic, and the Government of India think that, although the plague has been widespread, these efforts have been attended in many respects with marked success.

2. The Governor General in Council is of opinion that the time has now come when it is possible as well as most desirable to obtain reliable scientific opinion as to the manner in which the disease is communicated, the causes of the outbreaks in different parts of India, and the circumstances influencing their growth and decline. The facts connected with the outbreaks of the disease are still very obscure, and no such opportunity has arisen—and it may be hoped that none will arise in the future—as now presents itself for their investigation. A number of interesting facts have already been collected and embodied in the different reports regarding the outbreak of the disease which has prevailed in India for the past two years; but there must be many valuable items of information to be ascertained from officers who have been employed on plague operations that have not been recorded in official reports; and there are also many circumstances connected with the outbreaks at different places which require to be locally examined by persons who can collate the facts and form conclusions which will be accepted by public as well as scientific opinion in respect of them.

The Government of India also regard it as very desirable that an authoritative scientific opinion should be obtained as to the value of prophylactic and therapeutic serum in dealing with plague.

3. The Governor General in Council has accordingly decided, with the approval of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to appoint a Commission to inquire into the following questions:—

(1) the origin of the different outbreaks of plague;

(2) the manner in which the disease is communicated;

(3) the effects of curative serum; and

(4) the effects of preventive inoculation.

The object with which the Commission is appointed is to conduct an investigation of a scientific character, the results of which will be of the greatest interest and importance not only to the Government of India, but beyond the limits of the Indian Empire.

4. The President of the Commission will be Professor T. R. Fraser, M.D., LL D., F.R.S., Professor of Materia Medica in the University of Edinburgh. The Members of the Commission will be Mr. J. P. Hewett, C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of India in the Home Department; Professor A. E. Wright, M.D., Professor of Pathology in the Army Medical School, Netley; Mr. A. Cumine, I.C.S., a Senior Collector in the Bombay Presidency; and Dr. M. A. Ruffer of the Egyptian Sanitary Department. Mr. C. J. Hallifax, I.C.S., will be Secretary to the Commission.

5. The Commission will be formally constituted on the arrival of the members from England. They will first visit the city of Bombay and will probably then desire to make enquiries in the other parts of India in which plague is or has been prevalent. The Governor General in Council desires to leave the matter of method and procedure entirely to their discretion. The general conduct of the inquiry and the regulation of the course of business before the Commission will be entrusted to the President in communication with the members. The Commission, through their Secretary acting under the instructions of the President, will correspond direct with Local Governments and Administrations (including Political Officers in direct relation with the Government of India) and Departments of the Government of India and with any local authorities with whom direct communications may be authorized by Local Governments and Administrations as a matter of convenience and in order to save time. It is requested that all communications or requisitions for information emanating from the Commission may be treated as urgent and complied with promptly, and that, in the event of the Commission visiting a Province, they may be afforded every facility for their inquiries.

ORDER.—Ordered, that copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Local Governments and Administrations for information and guidance, and to the Departments of the Government of India noted in the margin for information.*

Madras.
Bombay.
Bengal.
North-Western Provinces and Oudh.
Punjab.
Burma.
Central Provinces.
Assam.
Coorg.
Hyderabad.
Foreign
Public Works } Departmnt.
Finance
Military
* *To Foreign Department*, and communication to Political Officers.

Ordered also, that it be published in the Supplement to the *Gazette of India* for general information.

[True Extract.]

A. H. L. FRASER,

Offg. Secretary to the Government of India.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 1940 H. D.—11-11-98.—416